

Subj: **Re: Castine query**
Date: 8/21/2011 8:43:48 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From:
To:

Hi Eric:

Responding to your message to Peter about surface quality of the hoard coins, these coins were found pretty much exposed to the elements. They were on the river bank but not buried deeply. I would expect all sorts of surface contamination from rain, tree roots, soil were possible and probable. Also - somewhere along the line, could someone have harshly cleaned it?

Phil

Copy sent to Eric

Subj: **Proximity to Ocean Spray affecting coin surfaces**
Date: 9/3/2011 1:42:58 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: EricNumis@aol.com
To: gaspar@wustl.edu

I was present when hurricane Irene struck our home in Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard on the late afternoon and evening of Sunday August 28, 2011. Our house is about 1000 feet away from and about 300 feet above the ocean shore line. The ocean had heavy solid white caps continually and the 35 foot high shore sand and rock cliff in front of us lost 4 to 5 feet inwardly. The wind from the south was violent steadily at 40 to 50 miles per hour throwing ocean spray at all our bushes and trees. I noticed the next day that the leaves of most of the leafed trees and bushes had turned substantially from green to brown. The pine trees were unaffected in color. I noticed in the next Tuesday's VINEYARD GAZETTE newspaper that the discoloration was mentioned as having taken place..

The salt water ocean spray certainly demonstrated its acidic affect on photosynthesis and the speed with which it took effect.

Translating this observation to Castine, Maine where the waves and tidal action may be greater and at temperatures much more variant and with dried salt water. natural soil deposit, botanical growth, bacteria, worms, etc. on a natural stone ledge at the sea shore for a period of over a century it may indicate unusual chemical changes on the surface and in the internal content of a coin.

Please consider the above matter and in due course let me know your and/or anyone's thinking.

I also want to know what you think about asking to test the Spanish American coins from the Castine Hoard now allegedly held by the Maine Historical Society.

Eric



Washington University in St. Louis

ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Chemistry

Jan 27, 2012

Dear Eric,

Just a word of thanks for the stimulating afternoon yesterday. It is always a pleasure to be with you, and especially so when we can have a numismatic discussion.

It was a special treat that you showed me some of your extraordinary collection of counterfeit British coppers. You showed me pieces that are truly amazing - their exceptional condition showcasing the rich variety of styles and the wide range of manufacturing quality.

Many thanks! I look forward to our meeting again soon.

Subj: **Salmon Schedules**
Date: 1/30/2012 5:06:45 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis@aol.com
To: gaspar@wustl.edu

Dear Peter:

You said that you did not have a copy of Salmon's insert in the C4 Newaletter for Winter 2011. I have made a copy of mine and have put in between my front door and my insulating glass door. You may pick it up at convenience.

When you read it please note that the reverse of Noe 12 is listed as Salmon reverse X. This is said by him to be a signal that this may be a symbol for a counterfeit, copy or forgery. That is apparently still his opinion. Then he uses X for the reverse of other Massachusetts silver varieties which do not have the same reverse die and have no relationship to what he designates as Salmon 10-X. If the X only applied to Salmon large Pine Tree varieties it might be confusing enough but being used to apply to dies in other groups seems to me to make the use of X unnecessarily confusing. Does the X apply to a die or to genuineness?

I have been asked a question by Mossman which you may answer and I cannot. Please telephone me at convenience. It relates to why your findings are so low on specific gravity when ordinary adulterant metals are higher or did air get unto it?

Thank you for the nice note to me about your recent visit,

Eric

Subj: **Re: Denis Cooper and roller presses (Taschenwerke)**
Date: 2/17/2012 3:34:17 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: gaspar@wustl.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric,

I read Cooper on roller and rocker presses. Chapter 7 has a lot of material on rocker presses, including photographs of several presses, and a good picture of a pair of dies for a rocker press. Unfortunately, I couldn't find an explanation in Cooper for how the dies were made. If it were I, I would raise a flat punch and rock a soft die blank on it - a mirror image of how plates are made to print engraved banknotes or postage stamps.

Carole and I are going out to our place in Calhoun County tomorrow and be back Sunday night.

All the best to you and Evelyn. I'll call you early next week.

Peter



Washington University in St. Louis

ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Chemistry

23 Feb 2012

Dear Eric -

Here is a brief project description
from a proposal I submitted yesterday
to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for
neutron beam time to study Massachusetts
silver coins. I think there is a good
chance that it will be approved. The
experiments would be run this summer.
Hope you are thriving!

Best regards,



Time-of-flight neutron diffraction studies of colonial Massachusetts silver coins

Much can be learned about the level of technology in a given time period from the methods used to manufacture coins [1]. Producing blanks that are converted into coins by impressing designs pushes the limits of metallurgical practice in any period, as precision in sizes, weights and composition are needed to deter and detect counterfeiters. Uniform designs are also a safeguard that constrains the techniques available for sinking dies used to strike coins [2].

There is scant documentation for the operations of the Boston mint in which the first four series of colonial Massachusetts silver coins were struck [3]. Much of what we know about coinage technology has been learned from physical and chemical analysis of the coins themselves, as mints were necessarily secretive. Unfortunately, nondestructive techniques have, in the past, required sampling methods such as sectioning, filing, polishing and/or drilling into the coin. Such sampling is unacceptable for very rare or valuable coins.

Time-of-flight neutron diffraction (TOF-ND) provides information about the microstructure and composition of a whole coin with no sample preparation. It is non-destructive and not limited to the surface of a coin. It provides the most important data required for elucidating the techniques employed for manufacturing coin blanks and impressing coin designs, knowledge of significance to historians of technology and economics, as well as numismatists.

We propose determining both the texture (grain orientation) and composition of representative specimens of the New England, willow tree, oak tree, and pine tree series of Massachusetts silver coins produced between 1652 and ca. 1685 (Figure 1). The main question is whether machinery was employed, and, if so, of what nature? The earliest Massachusetts coins are believed to have been made by hammering designs onto blanks that were themselves produced by hammering silver ingots to coin thickness.

A similar technique is thought to have been used to strike the willow tree shillings, but oak tree shillings may have been made using a press in which coin blanks were rolled between dies with curved faces [3]. Both the thickness and the flatness of the blanks must be carefully controlled for such "rocker dies" to deliver coins with complete and uniformly sharp impressions [4]. Thus, machinery for making blanks may also have been used if rocker presses were employed. Use of the rocker press can be revealed by TOF-ND texture measurements, as the rolling of blanks between the dies causes a preferential orientation of metal microstructure. Production of sheets of metal, from which blanks were cut, by uniformly thinning a small ingot of silver alloy with successive passes through a rolling mill will also orient the microstructure in the direction of rolling. Another contribution to texture comes from metal flow when the die is pressed into the blank's surface. Contributions from production of the blanks will be investigated by preparing and measuring cast, rolled and hammered exemplars of blanks.

Composition measurements from TOF-ND experiments will provide precise compositions representative of the whole coin, not previously available from nondestructive surface analyses and specific gravity determinations. Large differences have been observed in the weights of pine tree shillings, and one of us has speculated that the Boston minters might have compensated for lower silver content by increasing the coin weight proportionately.

Preliminary experiments on an English medieval hammered silver penny of sterling fineness, and on a US 90% silver, 10% copper silver quarter struck with a mechanical press on a blank made from rolled stock, gave promising results (Figure 2). Measured and theoretical compositions were in good agreement, and, as expected, the modern machine struck coin displayed much greater texture than the hammered penny.

Experimental Details:

Composition and texture determinations are planned on two examples each of the four series of colonial Massachusetts silver coins introduced above, including full pole figures for one example of each series. Two reference coins of known composition will also be measured as standards. In addition, cast, hammered, and rolled blanks will be made, struck into sample coins, and measured before and after striking. The requested VULCAN instrument can efficiently measure both composition and texture. Surface composition determinations by XRF will be done before the TOF-ND experiments. A vanadium disk of coin size and thickness will also be

prepared, and the incoherent scattering measured in the same orientations as the diffraction patterns from the coins in order to provide a normalization of the diffraction patterns from non-uniform illumination of the coins by the neutron beam. This will help estimate any corrections for self-absorption and extinction. The combined texture and composition TOF-ND measurements will require *ca.* 1.5 hours of beam time for composition and texture measurements for 24 specimens and 6 hours for full pole figures for 4 specimens for a total of 60 hours of beam time. Full implementation of this project, including set up and sample changing will require 4 – 5 days. For the texture and composition measurements the coins will be mounted in a previously designed holder. The full pole figures will employ a goniometer.

The diffraction patterns will be analyzed using Rietveld refinement to obtain composition, with standard techniques and software such as MAUD to evaluate texture. Statistical techniques such as discriminant and cluster analysis will be employed to determine whether the characteristics of each series of Massachusetts silver coins are distinguishable. Given the sizeable variations in surface compositions previously found by XRF analyses [5], it will be valuable to compare the TOF-ND and the XRF data. This should reveal how the bulk and surface compositions are related. Comparison of the texture data will be particularly important for elucidating production methods and determining whether these methods varied from series to series for the early Massachusetts silver coins, providing insights into the development of technology in North America in the century prior to the American War for Independence.

References:

- [1] Sellwood, D. G., "A metallurgical investigation into early minting techniques," M.S thesis, Kingston Polytechnic Institute, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1975.
- [2] Gaspar, P.P., "Coinage and Die Making Techniques in the 17th Century," *Metalurgy in Numismatics*, 1993, 3, 131-140.
- [3] Salmon, C.J., "The Silver Coins of Massachusetts," American Numismatic Society, NY, 2010.
- [4] Cooper, D.R., "The Art and Craft of Coin Making," Spink, London, 1988.
- [5] Newman, E.P.; Gaspar, P.P., *American Journal of Numismatics* (in preparation).



Figure 1 – Early Colonial American coins of the types to be measured in this project.

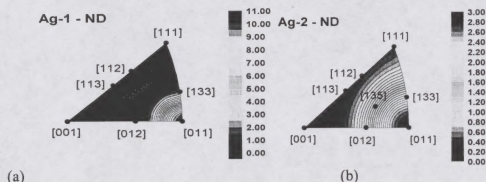


Figure 2 – (a) Inverse pole figure for a US 1964 silver quarter (TOF-ND composition = 89% Ag and 11% Cu). (b) Inverse pole figure for a medieval English hammered silver penny (measured values = 98% Ag and 2% Cu).

Subj: **hello**
Date: 6/26/2012 6:09:29 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: gaspar@wustl.edu
To: ErickNumis@aol.com
Dear Eric,

Carole and I miss you and Evelyn, but we know you are enjoying your New England stay, and we are glad you are avoiding what is becoming a rather extreme Saint Louis summer. It has been very dry, rather drought-like conditions, and by Thursday it will be well over 100 degrees!

I obtained a copy of the July-August 1952 issue of "The Coin Collector's Journal" and read with interest your article about "the 1776 Continental Currency Coinage." Your explanation of "E.G. FECIT" is ingenious and plausible. I wonder if there has been more earned about E.G. since 1952? The case you made for the intended replacement of dollar notes by coins is convincing, and the grossly overvalued gun-money coppers of James II are a good analogy. I look forward to seeing some of your examples this Fall.

I mentioned to you that I had had a long conversation with Dr. Salmon, and he promised to help me borrow some New England shillings for the series of time-of-flight neutron diffraction studies that I have planned at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Last week I decided to email him again asking whether he had a script that he was willing to share for the talk he gave on New England silver at the ANS last November. I have been curious about what he said, and wrote him that reading his lecture would be good background for the measurements I hope to make at Oak Ridge. Rather surprisingly, he has not answered my message.

Please give Evelyn our love. I hope that you are both well and thriving.

Peter

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
 Date: 7/5/2012 2:07:33 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: gaspar@wustl.edu
 To: EricNumis@aol.com
 Dear Eric,

Your numismatic curator kindly sent me the August 1959 Numismatis with your identification of E.G. It is a very interesting story, and it must have been greatly satisfying to have been able to so convincingly correct your earlier E.G. attribution. I always tell my students that no matter how strictly one checks and rechecks ones work, occasional mistakes are inevitable, but it is very important to try to be the one to find ones own errors. I knew the Gallaudet name from the famous school for the deaf.

I am attaching a summary of a Wall Street Journal article that you have probably read. Since Arnold Peter Weiss and I often disagreed strongly on ANS policy when we served on the Council together, I must admit to not feeling terribly sorry for his being caught with his hand in the cookie jar. Although I disagree with the policy of curtailing the importation of ancient coins without a license or a long pedigree, I certainly disapprove of breaking the law. And I find some amusement in learning that Weiss was arrested for importing fake coins. Condemning him to write a mea culpa essay is OK, so long as we are not condemned to reading it!

I'm glad that you and Evelyn are not being subjected to our really horrible St. Louis weather right now. I hope that your garden in Clayton is being watered frequently. The moisture level in the soil is dropping rapidly, and most vegetation other than large trees is threatened by the combination of 100+ temperatures (the last eight days with several more to come) and lack of rain.

The National Science Foundation is moving slowly on my new major grant, but I am assured that it will be awarded in the next few weeks. I'll let you know as soon as it is official.

Carole sends her regards.

Peter

At 05:08 PM 6/28/2012, you wrote:

Dear Peter;

Thank you for the complimentary comment on my Coin Collectors Journal 1952 write up of the 1776 Continental Currency coinage. I am pleased that I had the opportunity to correct an error in it with an article in the August 1959 The Numismatist entitled something like "The 1776 Continental Currency Coinage Meets its Maker"..I am having mailed to you an extra copy which I had. The correction of my mistake was enthusiastically accepted. I have done lots more research on the Gallaudet family including the man who developed the school for the deaf which still exists with that name.

As to I cannot straighten out your hot weather and hope it subsides. I am sure your weekend retreats solve your problem Evelyn joins me in sending you and Carol our best. . . Eric

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 7/24/2012 1:07:49 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: gaspar@wustl.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Thanks, Eric. I thought of George Fuld, but I needed to be sure. I have an old email address for him, which I will try.

The following are our first attempts at suitable rhymes, but they aren't nearly as good as yours and Evelyn's:

Carole's rhyme:

With dearest friends

we often crave
the long lost days
of Burma Shave.
But in old times
were signs all laid
along highways
built by convicts (slaves)?

Peter's rhyme:

We miss dear friends
so far from us,
but one thing saves the day.
Unlike Dante you need not brave
an inferno that turns grass to hay
BURMA SHAVE

Love from Carole and Peter (It's supposed to reach 108 today!

At 10:49 AM 7/24/2012, you wrote:

Dear Peter:

I believe the George is George Fuld. I hope that helps you find the comment. You can ask him if you can reach him. Eric.

Subj: **NSF grant and half cents**
Date: 8/9/2012 4:35:12 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: gaspar@wustl.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric and Evelyn,

As much as Carole and I miss you, we are grateful that you are not being subjected to our extraordinarily oppressive weather. Tomorrow will be only the second day in over a month that the high is expected not to reach 90! It rained a bit last night, but not enough to put a dent in the drought.

At long last my new research grant, promised since the beginning of May, arrived Monday. It amounts to just a bit less than half a million dollars. It was extremely gratifying that the reviewers of the proposal found my ideas promising, despite their not being directed toward an immediate practical application. These days it is very difficult to obtain grants for basic science. Despite laws forbidding age discrimination, it is also somewhat unusual for proposals from scientists in their late seventies to be funded, so I consider myself very fortunate.

I notice that the Goldberg's September 2 to 5 sale will feature important half cents from the Carvin Goodridge collection. I looked for the email address of your relative who collects half cents (he consulted me about an analytical problem a few years ago) so that I could write him to make certain that he knew about the sale. I have always thought that half cents were extremely interesting, and wonder if I didn't pass up a bargain of a lifetime over 60 years ago. When I was a teenager and collected stamps I visited a stamp and coin shop with a stamp 'bid board' every week. Taped to the inside of his shop window that dealer had an 1831 half cent that he offered for ten dollars. Since I was barely collecting coins, and those mostly from circulation, and ten dollars was a lot of money for me in 1950, and I didn't want a restrike and couldn't distinguish one from an original, I procrastinated on the decision to buy the coin until it was gone. Of course, even in 1950, the piece could have been an altered date, but in retrospect it was quite possibly real. Oh well, one always regrets the ones that got away. The Goldberg sale has an original 1831 proof, but I believe your relative has one.

Carole joins me in sending our love.
Peter

Subj: (no subject)
Date: 8/11/2012 2:55:06 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: EricNumis@aol.com
To: gaspar@wustl.edu

Dear Peter: and Carole:

Evelyn and I are thrilled to hear that your grant came thru. What a great satisfaction it must be for this recognition of Peter's work. It shows that the range of age and goals are broadening because accomplishment is resulting from trained minds regardless of prior restrictions.

Please send us a copy of the announcement unless we receive it on WU Internet .

We plan to return to St. Louis on September 1 after having a delightful summer even though I had a fall and skinned myself on the forearm (we have a wonderful hospital here) .

I hope you will have something interesting to tell me about Oak Ridge in due course.

I presume your Calhoun Count retreat was a substantial improvement over the high temperatures. When we were young and there was no air conditioning we used to dip our sheets in water and sleep out on a screened sleeping porch until the sheets dried and then we would repeat the procedure.

My father used to do surgical procedures beginning at 5 AM at the hospital wearing a knitted woolen mask with eye slots to avoid getting sweat on the patients. The operating room was on the north side of the hospital which would be out of the sunshine.

Our very best.

Evelyn and Eric

Saturday, August 11, 2012 AOL: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Fwd: [Colonial Numismatics] EARLY Minting Technology and Techniques**
 Date: 10/12/2012 2:22:22 P.M. Central Daylight Time
 From: gaspar@wustl.edu
 To: PLMossman@aol.com, EricNumis@aol.com
 Hello, Phil!

Both videos are very interesting, and I am grateful to you for sending them. In some respects my understanding of minting techniques differs from those shown in use at the Melle center. There is plenty of evidence that some series of silver and electrum ancient coins were struck on blanks that were prepared by pouring molten metal onto a flat surface. That is suggested by planchettes with one flat surface and one curved surface. Such blanks must have been poured one at a time from a crucible small enough that it could be handled with a precision sufficient to produce blanks differing in weight by less than a few percent. The videos showed ancient coins with casting sprues, so the technique shown, casting 'trees' of blanks similar to the manufacture of cash pieces in China must have been used in some mints.

Bronze dies were often used to strike heated blanks. The extra heating process softened the blanks and hardened the dies - bronze is hardened by heating, while steel is softened by heating.

One last comment. Larger Egyptian bronze coins have small depressions at their centers, suggesting some sort of mechanical surface treatment, perhaps even some sort of lathe.

It is great that France supports this kind of metallurgical/numismatic research, and I wish them well and wish that I could participate in their studies. As Graham Dyer and I have found at the royal Mint, the experimental recreation of coinage techniques is a powerful approach toward recreating minting techniques of prior centuries. Mints rarely record their practices, for obvious reasons. For several decades I have been developing a bibliography of die-making and coinage techniques, which I hope to publish someday, when I feel that I have found more references than I have missed.

All the best!

Peter

At 12:48 PM 10/12/2012, PLMossman@aol.com wrote:

Hello Eric and Peter:

In this email forwarded from a C4 friend are two videos from France on their experiments regarding the making of ancient Greek coins. They are excellent.

After you go to the site, you will see an orange bar beneath the black tool bar which will turn on the English text.

Enjoy.

Best

Phil

From: CMcdon0923@aol.com
 Subj: [Colonial Numismatics] EARLY Minting Technology and Techniques

While we may have a half decent idea on the minting techniques and technology for the period of colonial coinage, these two videos below take it back a bit further....a bit more than 2,000 years or so to be precise.

The following links were posted to a site I belong to which is devoted to ancient coins, but I thought the videos would still be of interest to some of you.

Both videos are in French, but right below the control bar is a link for a version with English narration and subtitles. They are about 18 and 10 minutes long, respectively.

"The Eagles of Alexandria":

http://www.1001images.com/filmogrf/MA14_aiglesalex/aigles/aiglesalex.html

"Making of a Mint":

http://www.1001images.com/filmogrf/MA10_frappermonnaie/frapper/monnaie.html

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Subj: **Re: a book you may find interesting**
Date: 10/25/2012 4:12:11 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: caspar@wustl.edu
To:

Dear Eric,

Thank you for letting me visit you last Friday. Until I looked at my watch as I was leaving, I didn't realize that I had stayed two hours. I hope that I did not bore or tire you.

Just now the images of your wonderful imitation of the 1772 halfpenny with the blundered King's name arrived. I appreciate your sending it to me. I am having a bit of difficulty locating volumes 1 to 3 of Batty (they are not in the same place as volume 4, which I bought from the sale of the Ford library) so I haven't yet checked the pages you indicated.

Below I enclose a description of a new book on the production of notes and stamps employing the Perkins methodology. This description is taken from an on-line book list from Leonard Hartmann, a Louisville philatelic book dealer. I bought the book from him, and it is handsomely produced, but I haven't had the time to do more than leaf through it.

"Gary Granzow's new book "Line Engraved Security Printing: the Methods of Perkins Bacon 1790-1934, Banknotes and Postage Stamps", is now in stock and has met with tremendous success. We now have our second shipment and we expect it will be the last as we understand the printing is quite small, as with the Somerset House book on perforations. The information on the die creation is exceptional and gives me a much better concept as to how they were made. 2012, 360 pages, 181 illustrations, many in color, cloth, published £50 plus postage of £26, \$110.00"

Cheers!

Peter

GASPAR

Subj: **R Tettenhorst?**
Date: 6/24/2013 12:37:52 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: gaspar@wustl.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com
Eric:

I hope that the trip to Martha's Vineyard was smooth and that you and Evelyn are having a pleasant time.

I'm writing because I just saw a photograph of you with "R. Tettenhorst" whose "Missouri collection" of half-cents, described as the most complete ever assembled, is being sold by the Goldbergs. Several years ago I did a small task for the brother of Evelyn who has a wonderful collection of half cents. I'm not sure I met him, so I do not know whether he is "R. Tettenhorst" but I would guess that he is. It is hard to believe that there is more than one half cent collection of that quality in Missouri (more than two if you have an extensive half cent collection yourself.)

Half cents interest me, perhaps because of the one that "got away." When I was about 12, in Los Angeles, a stamp store whose bid-board I frequented had a half cent in its window dated 1831, priced at ten dollars. I knew it was a rare coin, with both originals and restrikes, but ten dollars was then more than I felt comfortable paying. By the time I made up my mind to buy it, it was gone. I've always regretted my indecision, of course, and wonder to this day whether that coin was genuine.

Carole sends her love to Evelyn and you.

Best regards!

Peter



Washington University in St. Louis

Professor Peter Gaspar
Department of Chemistry
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

October 21, 2013

Eric P. Newman, Esq.

Dear Eric,

Here are the two coins you loaned me for TOF-ND neutron diffraction studies designed to help elucidate the techniques used to produce 17th century Massachusetts silver coins. Last March we successfully carried out the "proof-of-principle" experiments on coins of similar composition and made by known techniques for planchet manufacture and striking. The key experiments on Massachusetts silver coins will be carried out in 2014, if I succeed in borrowing the total of eight specimens that are needed.

You will recall that the authenticity of both of the present coins has been questioned. What is needed for the TOF-ND experiments to reach their goals is to examine unambiguously genuine coins. We should therefore discuss whether it is our present view that the two coins, a NE shilling and a pine-tree shilling should be included in next year's experiments. Perhaps it would be better for you to simply keep these coins, on the grounds that doubts might be cast on whatever results we obtain on them.

I am grateful to you for being willing to lend these coins to me, when my requests have not been granted by other holders of Massachusetts silver.

Sincerely yours, as always,

Subj: **Fwd: Thank you!**
Date: 11/13/2013 11:15:55 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: ericnumis@aol.com
To: GerryBall2@aol.com
Pls print and give to my father.

----- Original message -----

From: Peter Gaspar
Date: 11/13/2013 10:59 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: EricNumis@aol.com
Subject: Thank you!

Eric-

Many thanks for the pleasant time together yesterday. As usual, it was the highlight not only of my day, but of the week!
Good luck on your sale this weekend. Sometime, I would like to see the catalog. I had difficulty viewing the lots online.
Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you.
Love to Evelyn and you from
Peter and Carole



Washington University in St. Louis

Professor Peter Gaspar
Department of Chemistry
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

December 18, 2013

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
Clayton, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

A few evenings ago, I was going through a volume of the British Numismatic Journal, looking for a particular article, and I ran across my first BNJ paper "Simon's Cromwell Crown Dies in the Royal Mint Museum and Blondeau's Method for the Production of Lettered Edges." Your Cromwell crown played an important role in the work that led to it.

I believe that it is one of the few numismatic papers I have yet written that made a substantial contribution, because it established the need for an efficient method for marking the edges of the thicker coins whose striking, without a collar, was made possible by use of the screw press. Furthermore that method was identified as employing what we now usually call a parallel-bar edge-marking machine, and its use in London was associated with Peter Blondeau. When I wrote that paper in the early 70s, it was clear that Blondeau's parallel-bar edge-marking apparatus was what in later times has been called a Castaing machine, introduced a generation later (1685) in Paris.

Since Blondeau came to London from Paris, I wrote in the paper before you that I could not say whether the parallel-bar edge-marking apparatus was his own invention. Since then, I have found a Paris document that states clearly that Castaing's apparatus was at most a slight modification of apparatus long used in London. So Blondeau was the inventor!

You will find on pp. 61 and 62 of the paper that close examination of the edge of a Cromwell crown (photomicrographs of the edge are shown in figures 9 and 10 on the plate at the end of the reprint) is an important part of the argument. And the coin I examined was your Cromwell crown. I had forgotten that I had first borrowed it so long ago.

So I am enclosing a reprint of that paper, knowing that I must have given you one already when it first appeared. All the best, and thank you again for the help you provided by loaning me the coin. All the best!

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 50376, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

December 3, 2014

Mr. Peter Gaspar
43 Hillvale
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Peter:

On November 12, 2014 I showed you my collection of the counterfeit British halfpence of George III which were given to me by Peck. I still have all of them in their original envelopes. In addition I also have my collection of counterfeit British halfpence other than the Peck group.

It would be a delight if you did write up these also.

I would also like to write up publications of these items by others, but do not wish to include those which are written in groups with unusual descriptions and unusual categories.

I think there is one item which the ANS acquired which would be fine, but it is already known by us. Let's talk over what should be included or ignored.

We can discuss these thoughts at any time, and you can give me your opinion as to what should be included or not.

I am very excited about your proposal.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman



Washington University in St. Louis

Professor Peter Gaspar
Department of Chemistry
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

March 5, 2014

Eric and Evelyn Newman
14 Topton Way, unit 2A
Clayton, MO 63105

Dear Eric and Evelyn,

Carole and I think of you every day, and hope that you are thriving in your new residence. It must have been difficult to leave the lovely house that was your home for so many years, but the convenience of living on one level is no small thing.

Please do not hesitate to call, if there is anything at all that we can do to help you. Hearing from you would be very welcome, since we miss the frequent contact that, in the case of Eric and me, extended over some fifty years.

With much love from Carole and me, and with warmest regards,

PS: Our daytime phone numbers remain: Peter 935 6568

Carole 968 7036

Our telephone at our Clayton home (43 Hillvale Drive): 725 0960



Washington University in St. Louis

**Professor Peter Gaspar
Department of Chemistry
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899**

May 27, 2015

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
PO Box 50376
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

The Levines and I spent two hours at the bank last Friday morning searching for the Peck counterfeit and evasion halfpennies. We found 27 of the total of 40 (the number stated on a small printed insert card present in each of the coin envelopes). I enclose a set of the four sheets of photocopies of the 27 envelopes, made by the Levines for record purposes. I signed their set of photocopies as a receipt for the loan of the 27 pieces for purposes of study and photography.

The Levines suggested the possibility that you had loaned or otherwise released the other 13 pieces, but I told them that that would surprise me.

The 27 pieces that I borrowed will keep me busy for a while, studying, attributing, and photographing them, as well as writing them up.

Thank you for making me aware of the comment in CNL - 157. I carelessly allowed my subscription to lapse, so I do not have CNL - 157, but I will remedy that lapse today.

With warmest regards to Evelyn and you, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Peter Gaspar

1751 smut Geo II 1/2d

cut over NT

~~cut over NT~~
~~cut over NT~~

2 identical pieces

Peck Collection

1719 English

1/2d

cast ctf.

Charles W

Peck Collection

1773 England Ctf 1/2d

GEORIVS error

(copying error on genuine)

Craig p. 233 1772 1/2d AU
Peck Pl. 503



1770 English ctf 1/2d

Peck Collection

Die break over RGIN
GEORGIUS

1773 England Ctf 1/2d

xf

Peck Collection

1773 England 1/2d Ctf

Each E has small top bar
xf.

Peck Collection

1773 England Ctf 1/2d

Ribbon Touches E

Die break from head
N has no upper left serif. red

Peck Collection

1773 England Ctf 1/2d

Large O Unc olive

Peck Collection

1773 England Ctf 1/2d

Large O
Top bar of Es short AU.

Peck Collection

1773 England Ctf 1/2d

xf

Peck Collection

1773 England Ctf 1/2d
Die break from shoulder to
neck to hair line to border
Also toward X & toward G
Peck Collection

xf.

1774 England Ctf 1/2d

vf

Peck Collection

1774 England Ctf 1/2d

unc

Peck Collection

1774 English 1/2d Ctf

xf

Peck Collection

1775 Ctf British 1/2d
Planchet chip. Crude
Heavy reverse die break
vf.

Peck collection

1775 Ctf British 1/2d
Small break at top of 2nd N

xf

Peck collection

1775 Ctf British 1/2d
Crack from top of branch
to head to rim

unc

Peck collection

1775 Dmt 1/2d England
Backwards S

in GEORGINA III REX

last N in BRITAN NIA reversed
and corrected. R vf.

Peck Collection (over)

1775 Ctf British 1/2d
X has thick line

xf

Peck collection

1775 Ctf British 1/2d

Break from chin to armor
Break ~~from~~ ^{across} second N

xf

Peck collection

1775 Ctf British 1/2d
Large planchet

xf

Peck collection

1775 Ctf British 1/2d
Break across top of RE

xf

Peck collection

1776 Dmt 1/2d
duplicate

English Origin

116 3/4 grains

Peck

1775 Ctf British 1/2d
R higher than O

alt. unc

Peck collection

1776 2mt 1/2d

Peck Collection

1775 of British 1/2d

Not unc.

Peck collection

1775 of British 1/2d

Not unc

Peck collection



Washington University in St. Louis

Professor Peter Gaspar
Department of Chemistry
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

February 3, 2016

Mr. Eric P. Newman
15 Tipton Way, #2A
Saint Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

Recently I picked up my copy of "Coinage for Colonial Virginia" and reread the pages, photocopies enclosed, on the 1774 coinage in silver. You state that the four known examples are all brilliant proofs. You prefer to regard them as pattern 1774 halfpence rather than as pattern Virginia shillings, in part because no English shillings were struck for circulation between 1763 and 1787. Even the 1763 shillings were struck in extremely small quantities - the figure of 2,000 has been challenged because the 1763 shillings show up so often in the numismatic market, but Graham Dyer believes it to be correct.

While no business strikes of of British shillings were coined, pattern shillings were struck in 1764, 1775, and 1778. I do not have an image of the 1775 shilling, nor do I own an example, the only George III shilling missing from my collection (I have a 1786, of which only three are known.) But it is interesting that the King's head on the 1778 Pattern shilling is high on the die, as it is on the 1774 Virginia silver pattern. The inscriptions are also identical, including their spacing and punctuation.

You also pointed out that the legend on the obverse of the Virginia 1774 silver piece GEORGIVS III DEI GRATIA differs from the GEORGIVS III REX specified in the warrant authorizing the Virginia halfpence.

Given that British shilling patterns were being struck at the time of the Virginia halfpenny coinage, it does not seem farfetched to consider the possibility that Virginia shillings were also being considered, and that the obverse die for the 1774 Virginia silver patterns was that of a British pattern shilling rather than of a guinea.

*Warmest regards. Please let me know
if there is anything I can do to be of assistance*

P. Gaspar